

be able to provide one-time advance payments to home health agencies which have been experiencing cash-flow problems. These payments are temporary: agencies would be required to repay them within twelve months.

It also provides some relief to agencies for their compliance with the new regulations and rules. Across the country, home health agencies have had to spend millions of dollars buying new computers and software which can handle the new PPS. This provision also targets those small agencies with a lesser cash flow and are relatively more affected by the burdensome regulations.

My bill also includes compensation for agencies who must perform patient outcome assessments under the new rules. We should recognize that physicians' time is precious, and that we cannot expect them to provide accurate, helpful data if every hour they spend filling out forms is an hour less treatment that the agency can afford to provide.

Finally, the bill carves out funding for non-routine medical supplies from the PPS, so that agencies who treat patients with complex medical needs are not punished with low payments. We must ensure that all beneficiaries have the choice to receive care at home, and not be turned down or shut out of the market because agencies are afraid that they'll be too costly to assist.

These are sensible changes which go a long way to alleviate the burden that the change to the Prospective Payment System has imposed on the agencies. These changes will allow agencies to focus their care on Medicare beneficiaries, and reduce their burden as they transition to PPS.

ACCESS TO CARE

In Wisconsin, over 46 Medicare home health providers have shut down since the implementation of Interim Payment System. Still more have shrunk their service areas, stopped accepting Medicare patients, or refused assignment for high cost patients because the payments are simply too low.

So, what do these changes mean for Medicare beneficiaries? Well, quite frankly, in many parts of Wisconsin, beneficiaries in certain areas or with certain diagnoses simply don't have access to home health care. The Interim Payment System has created disincentives to treat patients with expensive medical diagnoses. Few agencies, if any, can afford to care for patients with expensive medical diagnosis.

CONCLUSION

I believe that Congress must take a serious look at what refinements need to occur to ensure that our home bound elderly and disabled constituents—among the frailest and most vulnerable people we serve—can receive the services they need.

Without that fine-tuning, I am quite certain that more home health agencies in Wisconsin and across our country will close, leaving some of our frailest Medicare beneficiaries without

the choice to receive care at home. Again, I think Seniors need and deserve that choice, and I hope my colleagues will join us in supporting this legislation.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 740

At the request of Mr. CRAIG, the name of the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. HOLLINGS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 740, a bill to amend the Federal Power Act to improve the hydroelectric licensing process by granting the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission statutory authority to better coordinate participation by other agencies and entities, and for other purposes.

S. 1066

At the request of Mr. ROBERTS, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. FITZGERALD) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1066, a bill to amend the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 to encourage the use of and research into agricultural best practices to improve the environment, and for other purposes.

S. 1074

At the request of Mr. TORRICELLI, the name of the Senator from Virginia (Mr. ROBB) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1074, a bill to amend the Social Security Act to waive the 24-month waiting period for medicare coverage of individuals with amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS), and to provide medicare coverage of drugs and biologicals used for the treatment of ALS or for the alleviation of symptoms relating to ALS.

S. 1128

At the request of Mr. KYL, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Mr. SMITH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1128, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to repeal the Federal estate and gift taxes and the tax on generation-skipping transfers, to provide for a carryover basis at death, and to establish a partial capital gains exclusion for inherited assets.

S. 1874

At the request of Mr. DEWINE, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 1874, a bill to improve academic and social outcomes for youth and reduce both juvenile crime and the risk that youth will become victims of crime by providing productive activities conducted by law enforcement personnel during non-school hours.

S. 1941

At the request of Mr. DODD, the name of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. BINGAMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1941, a bill to amend the Federal Fire Prevention and Control Act of 1974 to authorize the Director of the Federal Emergency Management Agency to provide assistance to fire departments and fire prevention organizations for the purpose of protecting the public and firefighting personnel against fire and fire-related hazards.

S. 2018

At the request of Mrs. HUTCHISON, the name of the Senator from Missouri (Mr. ASHCROFT) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2018, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to revise the update factor used in making payments to PPS hospitals under the medicare program.

S. 2330

At the request of Mr. ROTH, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Mr. GREGG) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2330, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to repeal the excise tax on telephone and other communication services.

S. 2527

At the request of Mr. DEWINE, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 2527, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to provide grant programs to reduce substance abuse, and for other purposes.

S. 2528

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the name of the Senator from Iowa (Mr. GRASSLEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2528, a bill to provide funds for the purchase of automatic external defibrillators and the training of individuals in advanced cardiac life support.

S. 2612

At the request of Mr. DEWINE, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 2612, a bill to combat Ecstasy trafficking, distribution, and abuse in the United States, and for other purposes.

S. 2644

At the request of Mr. GORTON, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Mr. SARBANES) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2644, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to expand medicare coverage of certain self-injected biologicals.

S. 2645

At the request of Mr. THOMPSON, the names of the Senator from Alabama (Mr. SESSIONS), the Senator from Iowa (Mr. GRASSLEY), and the Senator from Alabama (Mr. SHELBY) were added as cosponsors of S. 2645, a bill to provide for the application of certain measures to the People's Republic of China in response to the illegal sale, transfer, or misuse of certain controlled goods, services, or technology, and for other purposes.

S. 2739

At the request of Mr. LAUTENBERG, the names of the Senator from New Hampshire (Mr. SMITH) and the Senator from Nevada (Mr. REID) were added as cosponsors of S. 2739, a bill to amend title 39, United States Code, to provide for the issuance of a semipostal stamp in order to afford the public a convenient way to contribute to funding for the establishment of the World War II Memorial.

S. 2769

At the request of Mr. DEWINE, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 2769, a bill to authorize funding for National Instant Criminal Background Check System improvements.

S. RES. 268

At the request of Mr. EDWARDS, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Mr. LEVIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 268, a resolution designating July 17 through July 23 as "National Fragile X Awareness Week."

S. RES. 294

At the request of Mr. ABRAHAM, the name of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. BINGAMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 294, a resolution designating the month of October 2000 as "Children's Internet Safety Month."

S. RES. 304

At the request of Mr. BIDEN, the names of the Senator from Missouri (Mr. BOND) and the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. HUTCHINSON) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 304, a resolution expressing the sense of the Senate regarding the development of educational programs on veterans' contributions to the country and the designation of the week that includes Veterans Day as "National Veterans Awareness Week" for the presentation of such educational programs.

S. RES. 329

At the request of Mr. L. CHAFEE, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. SANTORUM) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 329, a resolution urging the Government of Argentina to pursue and punish those responsible for the 1994 attack on the AMIA Jewish Community Center in Buenos Aires, Argentina.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 127—EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE CONGRESS THAT THE PARTHENON MARBLES SHOULD BE RETURNED TO GREECE; TO THE COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

Mr. FITZGERALD submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. CON. RES. 127

Whereas the Parthenon was built on the hill of the Acropolis at Athens, Greece in the mid-fifth century B.C. under the direction of the Athenian statesman Pericles and the design of the sculptor Phidias.

Whereas the Parthenon is the ultimate expression of the artistic genius of Greece, the preeminent symbol of the Greek cultural heritage—its art, architecture, and democracy—and of the contributions that modern Greeks and their forefathers have made to civilization;

Whereas over 100 pieces of the Parthenon's sculptures—now known as the Parthenon Marbles—were removed from the Parthenon under questionable circumstances between 1801 and 1816, while Greece was still under Ottoman rule;

Whereas the removal of the Parthenon Marbles, including their perilous voyage to Great Britain and their careless storage there for many years, greatly endangered the Marbles;

Whereas the Parthenon Marbles were removed to grace the private home of Lord Elgin, who transferred the Marbles to the British Museum only after severe personal economic misfortunes;

Whereas the sculptures of the Parthenon were designed as an integral part of the structure of the Parthenon temple; the carvings of the friezes, pediments, and metopes are not merely statuary, movable decorative art, but are integral parts of the Parthenon, which can best be appreciated if all the Parthenon Marbles are reunified;

Whereas the Parthenon has served as a place of worship for ancient Greeks, Orthodox Christians, Roman Catholics, and Muslims;

Whereas the Parthenon has been adopted by imitation by the United States in many preeminent public buildings, including the Lincoln Memorial;

Whereas the Parthenon is a universal symbol of culture, democracy, and freedom, making the Parthenon Marbles of concern not only to Greece but to all the world;

Whereas, since obtaining independence in 1830, Greece has sought the return of the Parthenon Marbles;

Whereas the return of the Parthenon Marbles would be a profound demonstration by the United Kingdom of its appreciation and respect for the Parthenon and classical art;

Whereas, even without considering the legal issues surrounding the removal of the Parthenon Marbles, the United Kingdom should return them in recognition that the Parthenon is part of the cultural heritage of the entire world and, as such, should be made whole;

Whereas Greece would provide care for the Parthenon Marbles equal or superior to the care provided by the British Museum, especially considering the irreparable harm caused by attempts by the museum to remove the original color and patina of the marbles with abrasive cleaners;

Whereas Greece is constructing a new, permanent museum to house all the Marbles, protected from the elements and in full view of the Acropolis;

Whereas Greece and various international committees have pledged to work with the British government to negotiate mutually agreeable conditions for the return of the Parthenon Marbles;

Whereas the people of the United Kingdom do not have an ancient bond to the Parthenon Marbles, given that the Marbles have been in London for less than 200 years of the over 2,430 year history of the Parthenon was built, and as evidenced by a 1998 poll in which only 15 percent of the Britons polled recalled having seen the Marbles in the British Museum;

Whereas the British people support the return of the Parthenon Marbles, as reflected in several recent polls;

Whereas a resolution signed by a majority of members of the European Parliament urged the British government to return the Parthenon Marbles to their natural setting in Greece;

Whereas the British House of Commons Select Committee on Culture, Media and Sport is to be commended for examining the issue of the disposition of the Parthenon Marbles in hearings held this year;

Whereas returning the Parthenon Marbles to Greece would be a gesture of good will on the part of the British Parliament, and would in no way affect the disposition of other objects in museums around the world; and

Whereas in 2004 the Olympics will return to Greece, where the Olympics began, and the Parthenon Marbles should be returned to their home in Athens by that time: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring), That it is the sense of the Congress that the Government of the United Kingdom should enter into negotiations with the Government of Greece as soon

as possible to facilitate the return of the Parthenon Marbles to Greece before the Olympics in 2004.

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 128—URGING THE NOBEL COMMISSION TO AWARD THE NOBEL PRIZE FOR PEACE TO HIS HOLINESS, POPE JOHN PAUL II, FOR HIS DEDICATION TO FOSTERING PEACE THROUGHOUT THE WORLD

Mr. SANTORUM submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. CON. RES. 128

Whereas His Holiness, Pope John Paul II, has worked tirelessly and as much as any other world leader to bring peace to regions of the world which have known strife, intolerance, and violence for far too long;

Whereas His Holiness, Pope John Paul II, knows the persecution of oppression, having studied for the priesthood in secrecy and having seen those he grew up with killed and victimized due to the Nazi Occupation, and later witnessing firsthand the communist subjugation of his native Poland;

Whereas His Holiness, Pope John Paul II, since his installment as Cardinal of the Church, has traveled more extensively throughout the world than any predecessor, spreading his message of peace, religious freedom, and human dignity;

Whereas His Holiness, Pope John Paul II, was instrumental in the demise of communism in his native Poland, which in turn fostered the spread of democracy throughout the world;

Whereas His Holiness, Pope John Paul II, has reached out in an unprecedented manner to people of other beliefs and religions to establish a dialog which may lead to greater understanding, healing, and harmony, including praying for unity among Christian churches, reaching out towards a reconciliation with the Jewish people, and specifically acknowledging those times the Catholic Church has failed to act in accordance with its teachings;

Whereas in March of this year, His Holiness, Pope John Paul II, led a historic pilgrimage to the Middle East, including Jordan, Israel, and the Palestinian territories, preaching coexistence, peace, tolerance, and goodwill throughout this historically conflicted territory; and

Whereas His Holiness, Pope John Paul II, has used his position as a world leader to become the foremost voice to foster ties of brotherhood and for the promotion of peace and reconciliation in the world today: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring), That the Congress urges the Nobel Commission to award the Nobel Prize for Peace to His Holiness, Pope John Paul II.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 129—EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF CONGRESS REGARDING THE IMPORTANCE AND VALUE OF EDUCATION IN UNITED STATES HISTORY

Mr. LIEBERMAN (for himself, Mr. GORTON, Mr. SMITH of Oregon, Mr. CLELAND, Mr. BYRD, Mr. CONRAD, Mr. BENNETT, and Mr. GRAMS) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was considered and agreed to: